

THE GATEWAY

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Controversial speaker draws diverse crowd

ROSS MOROZ
News Writer

A diverse crowd of supporters, detractors and curious onlookers braved harsh temperatures Thursday night to hear Muslim activist Irshad Manji deliver a controversial message at the Myer Horowitz Theatre.

Manji, who was here as part of the Students' Union's ongoing Revolutionary Speakers Series, presented a lecture that was equal parts personal testimonial, rallying cry, and daytime talk show. Since the publication of her book *The Trouble with Islam*, Manji has been the target of everything from caustic criticism to death threats and has raised the ire of several high-profile Muslim scholars and activists. Not surprisingly, it is these high-profile Muslims whom Manji is most actively criticizing.

The trouble with Islam is that while every major religion has fundamentalist elements, "only in Islam today is literalism mainstream," said Manji. That is, more so than Christianity or Judaism, modern Islam is based on rigid ideology taken directly from the Koran.

PLEASE SEE MANJI ♦ PAGE 2



SHAWN BENEDIX

CREATING CONTROVERSY Muslim television producer and openly gay author Irshad Manji speaks at the Myer Horowitz Theatre on Thursday.

Industrial design program a hidden success

CATLIN CRAWSHAW
Associate News Editor

Walking through the Industrial Design (ID) building snugly located between SUB and the Coliseum car park, one might never know that the ID program has been garnering international attention. But from the recent achievements of current ID students and graduates alike, it would seem that the size of its facilities is no indication of the program's global

reputation.

A branch of the art and design department, the program offers students the training to design everything from prosthetic body parts to furniture to items to assist the elderly or physically challenged.

"It's a broad spectrum, anything from furniture to vehicles to cardboard boxes. We have students in the Provincial Museum doing exhibition work," said ID program coordinator Dr Robert Lederer.

Cam Frith, a graduate of the program and an ID computer lab technician, received recognition for his work even before the completion of his degree.

Frith received an honorable mention in a design competition in 2000 for his design of what he calls an "executive pedometer." The competition is an annual event held by Marksman, a company that manufactures business gifts.

PLEASE SEE DESIGN ♦ PAGE 3



NICK WISSE

THIS PROGRAM IS AWESOME! Industrial Design computer lab technician Cam Frith shows off an ID masterpiece.

\$50 000 grant helps SU combat smoking on campus

KRISTINE OWRAM
News Editor

Most people wouldn't think of turning to their Students' Union to help them quit smoking, but for students at the U of A, the SU may soon be one of the best resources available.

Thanks to a \$50 000 grant from the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC), the SU will begin offering tobacco prevention programs and support for students who want to quit, in conjunction with the University of Alberta administration and Capital Health, within the month.

Students' Union Vice-President (Student Life) Jadene Mah sees the grant as essential to promoting the health of students on campus. "We want to make sure our students are as healthy and successful as they possibly can be, and we hope this is one of the ways we can help our constituents," she said.

Out of over 30 applicants for the AADAC Tobacco Reduction Action Grants, 15 organizations received funding, including the University of Calgary, the University of Lethbridge, Red Deer College, and the Old Strathcona Youth Co-op in Edmonton. According to Becky Freeman, program

consultant for the AADAC Tobacco Reduction Unit, they were particularly impressed with the U of A SU's application.

"They came forward with letters of support from faculty, the dean of students, the administration, and the Health Centre, among others," she explained.

"We want to make sure our students are as healthy and successful as they possibly can be, and we hope this is one of the ways we can help our constituents."

JADENE MAH,
SU VP (STUDENT LIFE)

"I'm really hoping this grant will help engage students and faculty in wanting to address tobacco reduction on campus and in seeing this as an issue that students want to be active in."

Mah agreed that the grant will play an important role in getting students thinking about tobacco use.

PLEASE SEE GRANT ♦ PAGE 3



6 For a good feature, call Tammy at 492-2HOT. Or just open up this here newswag and check out the best graffiti campus bathrooms have to offer. Now, wash those hands, mister!

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Tuesday Sun and cloud, sunspot, nipple perkist of Jacksone; High -10
Wednesday Sunny, sunspot, nipple takes on Different Strokes High -14, Low -20
Thursday Sunny, sunspot, nipple erects Rhythm Nation; High -8, Low -22
Friday Sun and cloud, sunspot, nipple cuts through Velvet Rope; High 3, Low -11
Source: Environment Canada



From the archives

A vote was held on campus to determine student support for lowering the legal drinking age as well as the voting age, legalizing marijuana, and abolishing tenure for University of Alberta professors. Strongest support was shown towards lowering the voting age to 18, with 2734 of the 3483 student voters supporting such a change. The same number of students supported lowering the drinking age to 18 as well. However, there was no clear majority in support of the legalization of marijuana. Slightly over 2100 students voted in favor of abolishing the professional tenure system, and over 2800 students were in favor of replacing the existing system with a contract-hiring system.

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11 Do you have a hole in your heart that can only be filled by a painting of Darth Vader? Fish Grinkowsky might be able to help end your pain at his combined art show on Friday.

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Apple Macintosh
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Astronix flatbed scanners, and a Canon CanoScan
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for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images.
White Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images.
Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are
burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing
press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights
of Verdana, Georgia, and Helvetica. The Gateway's
games of choice are EVE and The Legend of Zelda: A Link
to the Past.

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Olney, Jay To, Ned Wolfe, Taron Bell, Jeffrey
Greenhaus, Will Chen, Robyn Collins, James Leung, Jesse

Design degree offers multiple skills

DESIGN • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Entering the competition as part of
a class requirement, Frith found his
placing an unexpected success, but
described the project as "boring."As part of a fourth-year class, Frith
and another ID student collaborated
with physiotherapists to enter the
American Society on Aging's Mature
Markets competition. The team won
gold with their design of an open door
that opens like a filing cabinet, raising
the owner's contents to the stove top for
easy access for people with age-related
mobility challenges."[U of A ID students] have been
cleaning up in that competition and we
were so proud of it because we're the
only ones who ever won that thing,
and we were the first ones to win it,"
Frith laughed.According to Lederer, ID students
will take sociology, psychology and
anthropology to understand the needs
of those they design products for."If you look at what we do here in
industrial design and visual commu-
nication, we're very much concerned
with the socially responsible develop-
ment of interfaces between products
and users," explained Lederer.One clear example of this may be
the recent collaboration of ID students
and medical experts to develop aids
for living for those with special needs
due to medical conditions. U of A ID
students are also participating in the
development of prostheses."We've been helping in using 3D
modeling techniques to improve the
quality of that type of product,
because previously it was medical
sculptors virtually sitting there with apatient looking at their good ear and
trying to model one that would fit on
the other side. It was really a craft-type of
activity," said Lederer.Among recently successful ID stu-
dents is Reid Bayly, winner of the
National Student Design Competition
held jointly by Toronto's Design
Exchange and Decoma International.

**"Everything is designed.
And most people go
through a day without
thinking about design
at all."**

CAM FRITH,
ID COMPUTER LAB TECHNICIANMoreover, Dr Tim Antoniak, an ID
professor at the U of A, and graduates
Paul Massie and Anton Beardsmore
were invited to participate in the Toronto
Interior Design show this January.According to Frith, the role of design
in everyday life is often overlooked."When you come into design, you
start realizing how much design there
is around you. How many things are
you touching right now that haven't
been designed? Everything is designed.
And most people go through a day
without thinking about design at all,"
Frith asserted."But the coffee cup, this pen, your
jacket, your shoes, that camera, this
computer, everything is designed.
And when I start thinking about that,
I'm wondering why we're stuck in
this tiny little room on campus that
no one's ever been to."woman in this case was lucky. Campus
Security wishes to remind the public of
the dangers of confronting potentially
dangerous suspects.CAMPUS
CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Jake Troughton

SUSPECT AND VICTIM MEET

Around 9am on 26 January, a back-
pack and jacket were stolen from the
top floor reading room in Rutherford
Library. The female owner checked with
other people in the area, but none of
them witnessed the theft.Later that day, the same woman called
to report that she had seen a male on
the lift in possession of her backpack.
She confronted the man and his female
companion, and took the backpack back.
Another passer pressed the train's
yellow emergency strip to stop the train,
and the man and woman fled the area.
The victim recovered her backpack, but
her jacket and other personal belongings
were not recovered. While the

PUTTING UP A STRUGGLE

At 12:45pm on 27 January, Campus
Security received a report of a male
who had left the Powerplant without
a jacket and was yelling and screaming
very loudly. Shortly thereafter, there
was another report from Dentistry/
Pharmacy that the same man had pulled
a fire alarm in the building. Officers
attended the area and located the man.
He became extremely combative and
was under the influence of drugs or
alcohol.He was apprehended after a five-
minute struggle. Staff in the building
were very helpful, remaining on the
phone with the Campus Security dis-
patcher throughout the incident. A male
student passing by the area also offered
his assistance in subduing the suspect.
The suspect, a current U of A student,Women key to reforming
Islamic religion, says Manji

MANJI • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The Koran is perfect. It is the word
of God, and that's that," she said.In Manji's mind, it is this idea that
than Koran is flawless and infallible
which causes even liberal Muslims
to balk at the idea of questioning any
aspect of their faith.Manji based her talk around the
belief that women are the key to
reforming Islam, mostly because she
feels that within Islam, women's rights
have nowhere to go but forward."Muslim women have nothing to
lose and everything to gain," she said.To back up her claim, Manji related
a personal anecdote about her mother.
Talking about her mother's nervous-
ness about the book, Manji said that
"many women have approached her
and told her that it's good that her
daughter has done this.""She recently confessed to reading
the book, and told me, 'You've given
me the voice that I've never had.'"Manji also advocates accelerating
the empowerment of Muslim women
by establishing a system of low-inter-
est entrepreneurial loans to Muslim
women in developing countries to
help them start businesses.After Manji finished with her half-
hour prepared statement, she threw
the floor open to questions from the
audience. Carrying a wireless micro-
phone, Manji demonstrated skills
culled from her day job as a television
host, venturing out into the audience
to take questions in person.

She faced comments and questions

that were both complimentary and
critical, sometimes from the same
audience member.A young Muslim woman took
Manji to task for a particularly con-
tentious section of *The Trouble with
Islam* that deals with the actions of
some Muslims during World War
Two.The questioner pointed out that
Tarek Fatah, a liberal Pakistani-
Canadian Muslim activist, has pub-
licly denounced Manji for being a
"self-hating Muslim" because of the
inference of Muslim complicity in the
holocaust.

**"Muslim women have
nothing to lose and
everything to gain."**

IRSHAD MANJI,
MUSLIM ACTIVIST"Tarek Fatah is not as liberal as
he would have you believe," Manji
responded."He has taken something that I said
and twisted it to outrage people who
have not read my book."The final question of the evening
came from the University of Alberta's
Muslim Chaplain, who politely chal-
lenged Manji's grasp of her subject
material by asking "how many times
have you read the Koran?"Manji answered the query like a
seasoned veteran of promotional book
tours: "Read the book and find out."cells. He was then transferred to EPS
and charged. A wallet, some cash and a
telephone card were recovered from the
suspect.

OUT FOR MORE THAN A MINUTE

At 2:00am on 30 January, a vehicle was
stolen from outside the Powerplant. The
owner of the car had left it running to
warm it up and returned to find that it
had been taken. The missing vehicle is a
green four-door 1998 Chevrolet Malibu,
with license number UVX-999.DID THE TABLE DO SOMETHING
WRONG?At 10:30pm on 31 January, a male was
reported to be yelling, screaming and
causing property damage outside the
study hall in Cameron Library. Officers
located the male and a female, who
had done damage to a table during an
argument. The male was charged with
an offense under the Code of Student
Behavior, and restitution for the damage
is being sought.

STREETERS

The Students' Union recently received a \$50 000 grant from AADAC to combat tobacco use on campus.

Do you think the SU should be involved in tobacco reduction on campus?

Christine Reimer
Science IKristy Storch
Education IIIMustafa Al-
Nuaim
Arts IIMike Kolinsky
Science IIIYes, I'm an athlete and I don't like it. At
the same time you have to respect their
rights. If they want to smoke, let them
smoke. Though I know some people
who are trying to quit, so that might be
a good thing.I think it's a good idea. I think that stu-
dent smokers won't care, but it is a big
issue and it needs to be dealt with.Yeah, sure. It benefits the students'
health. And it would be better for stu-
dents to spend their money on books
and tuition than on cigarettes.I think as a student group they should
promote what's best for students, but
smokers get bombarded by anti-smoking
programs all the time, and if they
haven't quit already they're not going
to quit just because the SU starts a little
program.

Compiled and published by Dave Berbow and Cosanna Preston

Grant program to help students make 'the healthy choice the easy choice'

GRANT • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We're hoping to generate a lot of discourse around smoking on campus. We want to encourage debate and get students thinking about it," she explained.

The grant is aimed at ages 18-25, however, and will affect more than just students on campus as a result. Melanie Gornoliuk, manager of human resources for Health Promotion and Worklife Services on campus, explained that this is where the administration comes in.

"Certainly we're looking at initiatives that will help create a healthier lifestyle for both students and staff," she said. "The focus is very much on making the healthy choice the easy choice."

Besides education and cessation programs, the grant is meant to aid

the campus in developing policy initiatives, according to Freeman.

"We're hoping to generate a lot of discourse around smoking on campus. We want to encourage debate and get students thinking about it."

**JADENE MAH,
SU VP (STUDENT LIFE)**

Even though a motion put forward by the Senate Task Force on Wellness for a complete smoking ban on campus was voted down by the Board of

Governors in the fall, Freeman maintains the task force's report showed a campus-wide desire to "make the U of A a healthier place." She hopes the grant will encourage more initiatives like this in the future.

However, Mah is concerned this aspect of the grant may generate controversy. "We want to make it clear that we're focusing on tobacco reduction and not elimination," she explained. "The Students' Union actually has a political policy that we do not support a complete smoking ban on campus."

Having hired a program coordinator only yesterday, Mah hopes to have tobacco reduction initiatives underway within the month, and she is confident the program will be a success. "We'll do an exemplary job with this," she assured.



SHAWN BENBOW

HOPING TO IMPROVE STUDENTS' HEALTH SU VP (Student Life) Jadene Mah discusses tobacco use on campus.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Compiled by Cosanna Preston and Kristine Cwram

ABORIGINAL ART PROGRAM UNIQUE IN CANADA

WINNIPEG (CUP)—Students at Brandon University (BU) are in the process of earning their degree in the ancient Aboriginal arts of teepee building, beading, carving and tanning.

This bachelor of fine arts degree in visual and Aboriginal art studies is the first of its kind in Canada, offering integrated Western and Aboriginal art instruction. The program is studio-based and offers four-year majors and minors.

Last year, BU had 92 students enrolled in its fine arts program. When it announced that it would be running the new program, enrollment increased by 100.

In the summer of 2003, BU received funding from the provincial government to go ahead with the project. Since then Colleen Cutschall, professor of visual arts at BU, has worked to set up the new courses that will be offered.

She said the challenges they face when offering these types of courses is usually seasonal. They are limited as far as what they can offer in the winter semesters, because some supplies will only be available in the spring or summer months.

In order to expand the program,

the university is also in the process of hiring for four full-time and one part-time staff to teach different aspects of Aboriginal Art. The university is conducting national searches to fill the positions.

Ginny Collins, Central Bureau

CBC CORRESPONDENT BLASTS MEDIA

MONTREAL (CUP)—Western journalists are increasingly complacent and docile, said veteran CBC correspondent Neil Macdonald.

Macdonald, who is CBC Television's Washington correspondent, made the remarks during a speech at the 66th annual Canadian University Press national conference in St. John's last Sunday.

"Never have I seen a Western press corps so anxious to please authority, so prepared to pander to popular prejudices, so beholden to big business, and so seemingly incapable of critical thought," he said.

He referred to a trend of "patriotic correctness" whereby journalists appease the government and corporate interests with their silence about important issues.

He focused on his US counterparts and spoke specifically about their coverage of the Iraq war and the so-called war on terror.

Macdonald ended his speech with an impassioned call for journalists to be more critical of authority. He accused the media of sensationalizing the news and of failing to get to the bottom of important issues.

"We seldom challenge the concept of authority and its many frivolous applications by the people in charge. We are supposed to tear away at hypocrisy, not

practice it. We are supposed to make powerful people uncomfortable. We are supposed to question authority. And I tell you we are not doing so."

Ira Dubinsky, The McGill Daily

STRONACH WANTS TO MAKE TUITION TAX DEDUCTIBLE

MONTREAL (CUP)—Belinda Stronach's campaign stop at a popular Montreal club last Friday left onlookers and supporters noticeably unimpressed.

After touring the room to shake hands with friends and supporters, the Conservative party candidate took to the podium to address the crowd of television cameras, photographers and reporters.

Unable to address the crowd in the provincial mother tongue, Stronach began with an apology and then launched into her carefully scripted dialogue.

"Je ne parle pas beaucoup français. Mais je vais écouter... et apprendre," which drew no applause and a few smirks from the French television camera operators. The entire room looked uneasy upon her early admission, but settled when she launched into familiar Conservative rhetoric.

"I believe we should give Canadians the most competitive tax structure in the world," she said.

Besides giving bigger tax breaks to business and making mortgage payments partially tax deductible, Stronach also announced that she would make tuition payments tax deductible—an announcement that drew significant applause from the scattered young people in the crowd who had been quiet until that point.

Dave Weatherall, The Link

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Sheer Alt

STAFF

AD

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CUE

Life of Yann

A profile on *Life of Pi* author Yann Martel

Part of a semi-regular Gateway series focusing on the works and accomplishments of great Canadians.

Award-winning author Yann Martel found a rare 15 minutes to discuss life and inspiration amidst his work critiquing amateur authors in Saskatoon and preparing for the arrival of the Governor-General.

Since winning the Man Booker Prize, one of the highest regarded literary awards in the world, for his novel *Life of Pi* in 2002, Martel humbly explains that his life has not fundamentally changed.

He admits that he is much more busy these days, having recently visited over 20 countries promoting the release of *Life of Pi*, but he maintains his lifestyle remains more or less the same.

"I am a little richer," Martel mentions hesitantly. "But that is secondary, really."

Martel shocked the country, and particularly the Saskatoon Public Library, when he confirmed he would be the library's writer-in-residence for the 2003-'04 term. He had previously agreed to this position before he was awarded the Booker Prize, and the library was not expecting him to stay.

Though the residency seems unlikely for a newly famous author, Martel maintains he is loving his new experience and never had any intention of refusing the job.

As a man who loves traveling, Martel says that Saskatoon has been on his "must-live-in cities list" for a long time. He explains that he has wanted to live there for years because, for him, it holds both familiarity and adventure. He has extended family in Saskatoon, but has never spent time in the prairies and views the experience as an adventure in his own country.

"I am absolutely loving it. Saskatoon is a great town and Saskatchewan is an amazing province. The geography, the landscape and the people are extraordinary."

Martel was born of Canadian parents who work as literary translators in Canadian Embassies. He spent his childhood in various private English schools around the world as his mother and father were transferred from country to country. Living in Paris, Mexico City, Costa Rica, and Spain, to name a few, Martel says he loved his lifestyle.

He found the changing of schools difficult, consistently fearing the first day. Looking back, however, he says his exposure to many different cultures was both stimulating and formative.

"I have nothing to compare [the traveling] to in the sense that it is the only childhood I had. The child just takes [his lifestyle] as normal, but now I realize how very stimulating it was to see different climates, different ways of eating, and different peoples. It was extraordinarily enriching."

Martel floated through his childhood with relative ease. He was the average bright, middle-class student

institutionalized courses in the later years left him dissatisfied.

He began writing in his spare time while studying, and wrote more and more when he rejoined his parents in Paris and worked night shifts as a security guard at the Canadian embassy. Eventually, after a series of self-described bad works, it turned into a career.

culture," Martel explains.

Martel tends to relate everything to a travel experience, but he has trouble choosing one city or country to call his favorite. Paris, he eventually decides, was the most memorable. He quickly adds Mexico City for what he describes as its sheer immensity engulfed in ancient mystical elements. Finally though, he decides on India as his country of choice.

For now, Martel says he loves Saskatoon and his overseas traveling may take a little rest. His term at the Saskatoon Public Library expires in June. From there he may move on to New York or maybe back to Montreal, where he has lived on and off for ten years. He even mentions staying in Saskatoon, but the distance from his family concerns him.

Whatever he does, he wants to take some time for himself when he moves on from the writer-in-residence job. With the Booker comes a lot of time spent on things like e-mail, a growing trend for those in the public eye and something Martel dreads. He longs to spend his time in leisure, listening to modern classical music and reflecting. Mainly, he wants to step away from the bustle of business.

"I like having moments of idle time. A key to art is leisure time where a mind can wander and come up with new ideas. People work to hard in society. People who work ten-hour days don't have time to step back and look at life and think it's really important. That is being lost."

Most of all, however, Martel just wants to focus on his writing.

"Words happen to be my paint brush in my leisure time. I love writing."

Writing is his leisure; it is what he enjoys, it is his form of expression. No matter where he ends up in the world, in the end it is all he wants to do.

"I like having moments of idle time. A key to art is leisure time where a mind can wander and come up with new ideas. People work to hard in society. People who work ten-hour days don't have time to step back and look at life and think it's really important. That is being lost."

YANN MARTEL,
AWARD WINNING AUTHOR

who always assumed he would take a BA in something and that his masters degree and PhD would simply follow, more or less falling into his lap. Writing was never something he saw himself doing professionally; it just happened over time.

Art and literature were very much a part of his life growing up. His father, in addition to being a diplomat, was an award-winning Québécois poet. His childhood homes were like collages of the fine arts, his eyes and ears constantly subjected to various works. He is quick to add that the art was there for appreciation, not value.

While making his way through Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, Martel became disillusioned fairly fast. He began in anthropology, but quickly became uninterested and moved on to philosophy. This discipline held more interest, but the

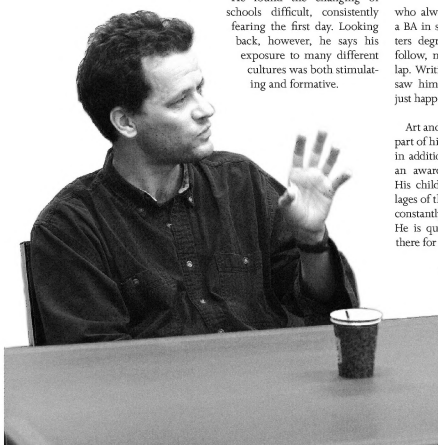
Prior to *Life of Pi*, Martel published a collection of short stories and a novel, *Self*, but both went relatively unnoticed. Martel expected *Life of Pi* to be given about equal attention. He knew it would be a good story exploring religion, but he did not see it appealing to the mass public and certainly did not expect the attention of the Booker. He is quick to chalk the award up to luck, saying another jury would have produced a different winner.

Martel does admit that his vast travel experiences likely assisted with the success of the book, or at the very least with his creativity. Though the book was based in India, it was the many cultures and differences he observed growing up and in his travels as an adult that fuelled his imagination.

"By making me see different ways of being, it has made me more creative. Creativity starts by imagining things can be different. It made me realize that the way things are is not the only way they can be. It's made me aware of the diversity, the depth, and the richness of

WORDS:
COSANNA PRESTON
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

PHOTOS:
REUBEN ALTMAN
COURTESY OF THE SHEAF



SU should focus on quality of education

SO NOW THAT WE'VE ALL HAD ALMOST A month to let this year's 5.3 per cent tuition increase set in, I have to ask are any of you outraged? Are you considering withholding your tuition next year in protest? Were you even remotely surprised that it happened at all? If you answered "no" to all of these questions, don't worry, my friends; you're not alone.

For many students, this is just another year and another hundred or so bucks we'll all have to pay for the pleasure of returning to this fine institution—and all this despite our Students' Union's efforts to reverse a more-than-decade-old trend they should probably know is almost a foregone conclusion. I'm not particularly surprised by the results, nor am I disappointed; I knew there'd be an increase, and I'm sure every single member of the SU Exec knew there would be an increase, too, though they'd certainly never say that out loud for fear of seeming insufficiently revolutionary.

No one can fault the SU for this increase; this is, after all, just one more defeat in a long line of defeats. But where you can fault the SU is in their insistence on carrying on this expensive, uphill, and largely ideological battle when there exist so many more feasible and ultimately beneficial fights at the U of A to take on.

Over the years, we've heard many reasons why the SU feels it should fight tuition increases, the biggest one being that SU polls show the majority of students would support a rollback or freeze on tuition rates. But one has to wonder just how useful these polls are—like anyone, I'd love to pay less money for my education; if you took a survey outside a car lot, asking people if they wished they had paid eight grand less for the car they just bought, they'd say yes to that, too. On an ideological level, I may even wish that my car had been free, but since I live in a real, practical society that demands money in exchange for goods and services, I think I'd ultimately be more concerned as to whether or not the car I bought was worth the money I paid, whatever the amount.

Another prominent justification for the ongoing tuition fight is the accessibility of education. Yes, I agree that education is a fundamental human right, and yes, in a perfect world institutions such as this would be funded almost solely by vastly increased taxes and corporate grants (but only the nice corporations, of course), but again, this is a far more ideological argument than the practical one. Are we really going to change the way every taxpayer considers the right to education this year, next year, or even twenty years from now? Somehow I doubt it. So how does fighting for this benefit us, the constituents of this SU, right now? So far, it hasn't at all.

I can't pretend to speak for every student on campus, but I think the increasingly sparse attendance at anti-tuition rallies is a good indicator that many agree with me when I say I knew how much tuition would cost when I chose to come here, but I came here anyway because I felt that the quality of education I would receive would be worth the money I pay. I was willing to dig myself into one big-ass pit of indebtedness to get my degree, and like anyone (and especially those of us in the faculty of arts), I want my degree to be worth something when I get out.

With the tuition battle becoming increasingly meaningless, I think the time has come for the SU to refocus its resources and efforts on ensuring that we're getting value for our money. It's time to set aside the ideological rhetoric and take a good look at what's happening to those people who are at the U of A right now. Right now, the comparative literature department has become all but a memory, with film studies not too far behind. Right now, the English department's Blue Book is more of a vague suggestion than an actual list of available courses, and the department of political science is so broke it had to close its own library. Right now, the faculty of arts is running a \$2 million funding deficit with even more budget cuts promised in the future. To me, these are far more pressing concerns.

I'm not saying that the SU should ignore the tuition issue completely; obviously, it does require some modicum of attention, if perhaps only a cursory amount. But I would think our money and consideration as students would be better spent fighting a public battle to maintain the quality of education at this institution. It's high time we set aside all these ideological arguments and focus on the practical.

CHRIS BOUTET
Editor-in-Chief

LETTERS

LRT escalator users:
be courteous

Those of us that take the LRT in the morning know how crowded it is, especially on the escalator. I would take the stairs, but I'm usually in a hurry. The logic behind the idea of the escalator is that if we all go forward on a staircase that is also going forward, we'll all get to where we're going faster. Yay.

But no, that would be a good thing. There's always one person who doesn't seem to realize that there are other people who are going somewhere and decides to stand still. There's no reason for them to stand still. They just do. The thing that says "Stand Right" is a suggestion, not the law.

Courtesy should be law. Now, if you're on crutches, and you don't really feel like trying to climb a crowded moving staircase, I'm okay with that. Or perhaps if you were involved in some sort of particularly thrilling life-and-death struggle on the train, that's fine too. But otherwise, just walk. Your backpack is not that heavy. Your lack of motion is also why you're fat, and nobody likes you.

BRIAN JACKSON
Student

Hanayk is hardly a
'liberal-minded person'

This letter is in response to a 22 January article entitled "Opposition to gun control is ridiculous," by Sarah Hanayk. I found quite a few things in the article troubling. The article mentions that Bill C-68 is unconstitutional and the article doesn't seem to have a problem with that. I believe it is a problem for all Canadians that our government has the power to pass laws that violate our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. If the government is able to pass this unconstitutional law, what will stop them from passing others?

The article seems to state that if all guns were registered, crime rates as well as accidental deaths would decrease and surely this is just cause for the cost of implementing Bill C-68. This is blatantly false. In the wrong hands, a registered gun is just as dangerous as an unregistered one. I think that the \$1 billion our government has spent on Bill C-68 would save more lives and be infinitely more effective in protecting the public if it was used to put more police officers on our streets, as well as promote gun safety programs.

It is a fact that only three per cent of violent crimes in Canada involve guns, and of those guns 70 per cent are handguns. It has been mandatory to register handguns since 1934. Doesn't this seem to indicate that registration does not save lives? Criminals have no intention of registering their guns. How will spending \$1 billion registering John Doe's duck gun save lives?

The biggest problem I have with the article is Hanayk's assertion that she is a "liberal-minded person," but has no problem branding hunters, such as myself, as people who need to feel "virulent and superior."



U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN IRAQ LEADS TO DISARMAMENT

Is this really being liberal-minded? I find her lack of knowledge about hunting very troubling.

People have many opinions on how hunting affects wildlife, and many do not know of its importance in proper management of our wildlife populations, the conservation efforts of hunters and hunting groups, or the connection to the "land" and "nature" that hunters have that so many urbanites have lost.

I don't think it is right to judge hunters based on misconceptions and false perceptions. To make informed statements one must base them on fact not personal bias and emotion. I would love to sit down with Hanayk and talk with her about any issues she has regarding gun control or hunting. I have no problem explaining myself to those who are open-minded and willing to see both viewpoints "in order to gain an empathetic understanding of a contrasting frame of reference."

DAVID WATSON
Civil Engineering II

Hanayk's view of
hunters horribly skewed

Wow, Ms Hanayk, your article on gun control ("Opposition to gun registration is ridiculous," 22 January) was truly enlightening. Despite your obvious lack of any knowledge at all about hunting or firearms, you managed to make bold, albeit lazy and stereotypical assertions about the "people" (I assume hunters should not be qualified as such by your clever and cutting use of quotation marks) who choose to har-

vest their own food as an alternative to the hormone-injected meat sold at grocery chains. Here are a few facts in case you've ever interested in writing an article about hunting that is less offensive and more enlightened.

First, there is no .23 calibre bullet currently on the market, although you assert this is one of the many calibres used by these monstrous hunters to commit their savage deeds. At this point in your "article" you show your complete lack of knowledge of firearms. Maybe you should have done some "research" before you subjected Gateway readers to your scatterbrained "thoughts."

Second, the Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations state that "it is unlawful to allow the edible meat of any game bird or big game animal—except cougar, grizzly bear or black bear—to be wasted, destroyed, spoiled or abandoned," a law that, unfortunately, completely mars the picture you painted of all hunters as wasteful and deranged.

I hate to disappoint you, but yes, Ms Hanayk, we are a responsible, respectful group who love the outdoors and contribute more funds to Alberta's conservation fund through sale of our hunting licenses than anybody else. I'll bet you didn't know that, either.

For most people who hunt, it is a time-honoured ritual that has been practiced by several generations in their family and brings them close to the land. Your unbelievably ignorant and shallow article reflects the fact that you have not been even remotely close to anybody who has hunted or used firearms, and your thoughtless stereotyping of all hunters as bloodthirsty hillbil-

lies with inferiority complexes was exceptionally shallow.

I took the liberty of forwarding your "writing" to the Weekly World News. They're always hiring "writers" like you.

LUKE FNAUGHT
Arts II

Israeli point of view
covered in national news

Gaby Broitman doesn't believe that the Israeli point of view had adequate representation at the forums that took place during International Week (International Week doesn't tell the whole story," 29 January).

I would like to remind her that if she, or any other, would like to be further informed as to the Israeli "slant," as she put it, she could tune in to any local or national newscast, which will offer extremely biased coverage on a very ambiguous issue.

BÖRN DELBANG
Arts I

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to managing@gatewayualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

1086

Golden Blades

208

Food Bank

1061

HUB

Paul Martin not a 'deficit dragon-slayer'

AARON
BRAATEN

If ever there were proof of Canadians being infected with mad cow disease en masse, it would be in the form of throngs of plebeians falling for an election campaign that says "if you liked me as CEO, you'll love me as Prime Minister." It just might work for Belinda Stronach. It worked for Paul Martin, after all, whose Liberal leadership bid consisted of little other than flipping a few pancakes here out West and then saying "if you liked me as Finance Minister, you'll love me as Prime Minister."

As Finance Minister, Paul Martin helped to save Canada from the "deficit dragon," beginning with his infamous 1995 budget cuts, which made their way through confederation like a bucket of bran through a python. And whilst Ol' Marty was busy jumping through ethical and legal tax loopholes to avoid paying his fair share of taxes by flying flags of convenience on his Canada Steamship Lines (CSL) ships, he was gratefully lapping up \$161 million in revenues through government contracts and kickbacks.

There wasn't much left after the corporate welfare payments to Paul, so post-1995 provincial budgets read like stories of children who received coal and Mandarin oranges for Christmas. Provinces, unwilling and unable to bear most of these cuts, transferred them to municipalities. Now, guess who's come to save Canada's major cities with a new remix of Confederation? Talk about coming full

"Whilst Ol' Marty was busy jumping through ethical and legal tax loopholes to avoid paying his fair share of taxes by flying flags of convenience on his Canada Steamship Lines (CSL) ships, he was gratefully lapping up \$161 million in revenues through government contracts and kickbacks."

circle—it's like Paul is a master of dialectical planning. But I digress.

As for student loans, Mr. Martin saw post-1995 student loan defaults going through the roof. Stories of freshly minted MBA graduates walking into \$80 000 per year jobs and defaulting on the equivalent amount of student loan debt two years after graduating suddenly became popular in the media. To stem the tide of debt defaults, Paul Martin introduced Bill C-36, an amendment to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act that changed the period of which a student loan is "undischARGEABLE" from two to ten years, beginning 18 June, 1998.

Remember that this was when Canada's banks were in on the student loan business, and since they couldn't repossess knowledge like they would a car, they needed a legalized form of debt bondage to ensure repayment. This means that former students can officially begin defaulting on their student loans in June of 2008, just as Ontario sees a huge glut of its "echo" generation—kids of the Boomers—begin to place an undeniable strain on Ontario's post-secondary education system. In the meantime, a mixture of interest rate relief, bursaries and partial debt forgiveness eases the financial strain of those who didn't get MBA degrees in the '90s. Nevertheless, 2008 would be a great year to call a snap election, wouldn't it?

Would Paul Martin have been able

to run CSL as successfully as he did without running a legal and ethical three-ring circus? Was he really that great of a CEO? As Finance Minister, he might not have been the cause of Canada's economic turnaround—the Bank of Canada, not the Department of Finance had been the one to set interest rates lower.

Critics in general—CIBC economists specifically—argue that it was lower interest rates and our "what's my minimum payment" culture that fuelled Canada's boom through the '90s, done in part with consumer debt leveraged on the basis of increased real estate values. Consumer debt-to-income ratios now stand at over 100 per cent, a far cry from the early '80s when they stood at half that.

Paul Martin didn't necessarily slay the deficit dragon, but privatized it and had the provinces pass the buck on to municipalities. Cash-strapped lower levels of government had to sell off government monopolies, in some cases driving up primary input costs such as gas heating and partially through that, tuition. The pain of having a lower disposable income was eased with lower interest rates and easy credit. Now it seems that the only thing that can harm Canadians is an interest rate hike or real estate bust. In the meantime, we'll be getting used to servicing our own baby dragons, all the while mindlessly rooting for the likes of Paul and Uncle Ralph to slay their imaginary beasts.

Industry 'little guys' shouldn't have to shoulder the costs of piracy

Record and movie companies need to re-examine how they distribute profit

SHELDON
SMART

The record industry recently began enjoying the spoils of victory against all the evil music file-sharing websites that make melodious pilfering possible. Since the middle of last year, Pew Internet and American Life Project (PIALP), an organization mandated to explore the impact of the Internet on every facet of our lives, reported a 75 per cent drop in music downloading activity. That sounds pretty significant, but as MuchMusic's George Stroumboulopoulos pointed out on a recent broadcast, people guilty of the offense are just more careful to cover their butts these days, which renders the PIALP survey information likely inaccurate.

Downloading and file-sharing is illegal and outright theft. But at the same time, file-sharing sites save many of us the economic trouble of bad purchases, because we can check out a few tracks from various artists before we put money down on their product. So like many of us, I find myself torn on the issue and choose to float in the middle of this moral debate.

Artists are also divided on the issue.

Lars Ulrich from Metallica would likely open a can of whoopass on me if he knew about my liberal attitude toward file sharing, while Dave Matthews might give me a hug. Unlike Ulrich, Matthews does not just allow the pirate recording of his live shows and sharing of his music, he openly supports it and might even toss you a quart of "One Sweet Swirl" for doing so. He attributes his massive international success to people's freedom to share his music. So where does that leave us? What should we think about it?

Although the legal terrain of this issue has been well-charted by the music industry, the movie industry might have inadvertently shed some useful light on the issue. If you have been to a movie lately, you've seen the commercials for Respectsprights.org. I must admit, when I first saw the ads with David Goldstein the set painter and Manny Perry the stuntman, I was touched. I identified with them as they spoke candidly about being everyday guys just trying to make a living. I felt bad when they informed me that illegal downloading of movies was jeopardizing their livelihood and that it wasn't the stars, directors or producers that would suffer from the thievery, but people like them.

But after seeing the ads a few times, I began to wonder why it isn't the producers, the directors,

and the megastars who are going to suffer from this revenue loss in revenue. Why is it the little guy? The ads became almost insulting to me at that point. Not because I don't sympathize, but because the industry where individuals make tens of millions of dollars will let the little guy take the hit. The greed of the movie industry really rears its ugly head when the ultra-wealthy will let the people under them suffer financially.

If they want to question our morals, then I question theirs. I won't argue that downloading movies, like music, is theft, but I will argue that the people at the top of both industries should rethink the disproportionate earning differential between them and the countless people that make the industries possible before they try and sell us on the immorality of downloading and sharing music and movie files.

We all want to get value for our dollar, whether it's for a CD or a movie ticket. But as long as the majority of our money is seemingly mismanaged, I'll find it hard to sympathize. If the price of a CD is reasonable, then we'll all run out and pay for it; the same thing applies for a movie ticket. People will pay for the theatre experience if we know our money is used properly. Until that time, if making music and movies freely available on the net is going to make the two industries rethink profit distribution, then it's a good thing.

Spanking isn't as bad as people think



SARAH
HANASYK

Of all my memories of growing up, of that age where my biggest concern was whether *Muppet Babies* would be aired Saturday morning or replaced with a shitty *Astroboy* cartoon, among my favourites were the creative fights my brother and I would manage to execute in the midst of playtime. Usually they would begin with a discussion over whether Donatello would prefer to live in a quaint bungalow of our Lego city construction as opposed to Barbie's Dream Home, and end with me cramming one of those long Lego pieces into my brother's most easily accessible bodily orifice. As I recall, no week went without some Ninja-Turtle's-domestic-preference-related noisebled.

Of course, we then understood that parental wrath was nigh—and presumably in the form of a mild spanking and the removal of said Legos—but this was always followed by a sibling alliance wherein cooperation existed just long enough for us to sleuth out our parents' hiding space. And even though at age seven I viewed spanking as unpleasant, it was generally not thought of as a punishment that really deterred me from performing any "home dental work" on my brother when he deflated my Pogo Ball for the sixth time in one week.

Forms of allowable punishment, though, have met with controversy as of late. Recently, the Supreme

"Of course, 'appropriate' is subjective, and while a slap on the bum may be appropriate discipline for a parent, duct taping a child to a chair in a classroom for half a day as a form of restraint and humiliation may be perfectly acceptable to a teacher at her wit's end."

Court of Canada ruled that parents be allowed to spank children, provided that it is of "reasonable force" and is not the product of frustration or rage. Corporal punishment is deemed off-limits for children under two or over twelve years of age, and any physical harm resulting from drug or alcohol-related intoxication of an adult, or which is designed to abuse in a cruel or inhumane way, is subsequently not protected.

Arguments may hold that this gives license to child abuse and wantonly discriminates against those too helpless to defend themselves, but this contention has been defeated under the stance that a rational and appropriate degree of discretion must be given to parents and teachers alike, thus decreasing problematic accusations of abuse.

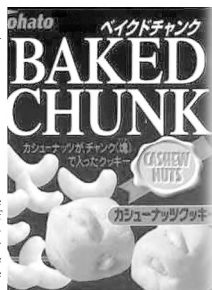
Of course, "appropriate" is subjective, and while a slap on the bum may be appropriate discipline for a parent, duct taping a child to a chair in a classroom for half a day as a form of restraint and humiliation may be perfectly acceptable to a teacher at her wit's end. While I have absolutely no problem with the former, and will wholeheartedly dismiss its classification as child-abuse, other reasons convince me that spanking is not an effective form of discipline in the long term.

This contingency of positive punishment has proven less effective, and

less reliably executed than negative reinforcement, or reinforcement of alternative behaviors. A child may display short-term compliance, but may soon become desensitized or become resentful, causing greater harm to the child-parent relationship in the future. Some studies also argue that spanking during early years may breed hereditary violence as an adult, due to years of decreased self-esteem and an unconscious mental re-focusing of the nature of the wrongful deed instead to a focus on the pain itself. This way, the child does not learn from the situation, transforming him or her from the instigator to the victim.

Being a child who was spanked on occasion, I'm not going to pretend that it was a very effective hindrance, but even in its harshest instances, it was nothing that could be grouped under the heading of child abuse. I won't deny that such abusive parents exist, but the average physical act of parental frustration is usually not rife with life-scarring potential.

Likely there is no solution to this arbitrary debate, and I'd bet any ruling would have gone challenged. Maybe though, if nothing else, it will decrease the frivolous lawsuits of fifteen-year-olds who just want to play superior over that teacher who gave them an "F" in science class. If only someone would cram a Lego piece up those kids' noses.



Sounds delicious!

What you are looking at is called Chunk. Baked Chunk. The guy designing this ad is also a baked chunk, so you can see why he felt a beautiful connection with all those sad little puffs of nutty crap. If you want to feel a beautiful connection with something, come to Opinion meetings. They're fun, and not nearly as dirty as I've made them sound.

Opinion Meetings: 3-04 SUB
Thursdays at 4:00 pm

THE GATEWAY

1108

Pro Eye

Canadian island paradise not a bad idea



ROSS
MOROZ

The new, decidedly not progressive Conservative Party of Canada has very little in their party platform that I can get behind. They supported America's invasion of Iraq. They're lukewarm on marijuana legalization. They couldn't care less about rising tuition.

So I was very surprised to learn that one of the wackiest wackos in the Conservative Party and parliamentarian Peter Goldring, has come up with possibly the greatest idea in the history of Canadian parliamentary democracy: Goldring wants Canada to annex the tiny Caribbean colony of Turks and Caicos, a small chain of islands that lie approximately 900 km south of Miami and are currently under British control.

Turks and Caicos is a chain of 40 islands, most of which are uninhabited. Currently the colony's economy is strong, although services like healthcare and education continue to decline. About 20 000 people live in the colony. Socially, the inhabitants of Turks and Caicos are very conservative; the population mostly belongs to evangelical Christian churches, and homosexuality and interracial relations are very taboo. So Turks and Caicos is basically Medicine Hat, but with more black people and better surfing, which may be why Peter Goldring and his Conservatives think that this is such a hot plan.

You have to admire the selfless nature of Mr Goldring. Recently, this benevolent and philanthropic civil servant went on a weeklong "fact finding" mission to the islands which reportedly cost him upwards of \$3500 "of his own money." Mr Goldring was no doubt involved in gruelling talks with government officials, courageously braving the excruciatingly mild 26°C weather and probably forcing himself to choke down the island's traditional meal of conch chowder, grilled lobster and coconut rum cheesecake in an effort not to offend his hosts.

I guess it's all part of the increasingly difficult job of being a Canadian parliamentarian, a job that, if the annexation of Turks and Caicos goes ahead, is not about to get any easier: all members of our government will likely feel compelled to make the harrowing and dangerous voyage (three and a half hours non-stop from Toronto on Air Canada) to Canada's newest province to do their own "fact finding." In fact, it occurs to me that these islands will, if annexed, immediately need Canadian government offices and agencies, all staffed with selfless and duty-bound civil servants who, like Mr Goldring, will grudgingly and altruistically volunteer to venture to the hostile and unforgiving tropical paradise that is Turks and Caicos, humanely compromising their comfort and safety for the good of all Canadians.

Critics of the plan remind us that this idea was brought up and shot down twice during Pierre Trudeau's reign as Prime Minister. So why will it work now? Because unlike that uncompassionate, isolationist fascist Trudeau, current Prime Minister Paul Martin is definitely willing to self-

lessly make at least a few visits to Turks and Caicos. He and Goldring, who epitomize altruistic internationalism, may even seek to represent the colony in parliament next time around. And I, frankly, will support any plan that leaves Paul Martin and Peter Goldring stranded on a hurricane-prone island in the middle of the Atlantic for any length of time. See you on the beach, guys.



For his abject stupidity, asserted by some to be nothing more than a sense of adventure, traveller Matt Farnholtz gets a stern sack beating to complement the worm living in his brain.

Farnholtz, ignoring all good sense and an explicit warning in a *Loneley Planet* guide book, decided it would be fun to go for a swim in the Mekong River. Farnholtz was surprised to discover, upon his return to Canada, that a schistosoma mekongi parasite took up residence in his brain, causing him to become nauseous and forget things.

A reputable travel guide told you not to go swimming but you couldn't resist. On top of all your other troubles: a sack beating, good sir.

ADAM ROZENHART

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

995

Bonavista

1056

Psych

1085

SAIT

186

SUB - Titles

Apathy brought down Rome; are we next?

TONY
SANTIN

I bet most of you don't remember whether or not you voted when the last election rolled around. Well, you're in an ever-increasing portion of society that has tuned out to the political process in this country.

The numbers don't lie: according to Statistics Canada, only 61 per cent of eligible voters bothered to cast their ballots in the 2000 election, down from 67 per cent in 1997 and 75 per cent in 1988. Yes, political apathy is alive and well. But such behaviour could have unconsidered and far-reaching consequences.

There are many scholars in the field of political science that see the last few years as being part of a "paradigm shift," that is, a fundamental altering in the values and institutions from that which defined previous generations. Notions of how society works and what it holds dear have changed considerably from fifty years ago. For example, the dynamic of the family has changed immeasurably in the last few decades, where the traditional roles of the parents have been made much more flexible to interpretation, even so far as to allow for same-sex parenting.

But even in regard to more publicized issues, from US plans for a missile defence system to electoral reform and free trade, many are simply

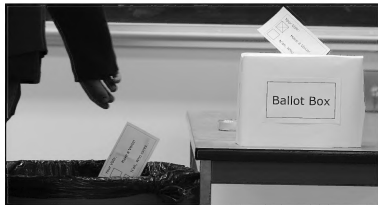


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: JEFFREY GREENAUS

tuning out and letting these events merely happen, becoming the audience in their own drama and in doing so letting our history be written for us. There are many reasons for this: some feel that, as an individual, they will have no effect on decisions that are made in far-away places by shadowy bureaucrats or corporate execs. Others simply have become numb to the whole process; they have become so jaded by the media's reports of patronage, corporate pandering and other forms of corruption that they no longer trust their leadership to make the right choices. They would much rather become engrossed in their reality TV shows or latest happenings on a sitcom than the details of a political issue. This concept is no different in principle than back in the days of the Roman empire, when if the emperor wanted to keep the masses distracted from the political issues of the day, he would sponsor huge gladiator battles in the Colosseum for days on end. But to sit back and simply let the events of the world unfold around oneself is a very dangerous practice. For

one, it effectively gives *carte blanche* to the authorities; it says that the populace is too complacent and apathetic to react to the government's actions, which allows them to do pretty much whatever they feel like. This is what happened to Rome in the final days of the empire, and it was this that helped lead Rome to ruin.

It is true that there are also elements of the system that can do much to discourage people from participating—like the electoral system, whose winner-take-all scheme tends to make it seem as though the result is known before one's vote is cast. But this brings up a larger point: why should one take for granted all that is happening about them? It is only through involvement and action that anything in this society can be truly changed and improved.

How we become more active in our society is ultimately up to ourselves to decide, but one thing is for certain: it is time for us as a people to take back our history from those who would wish to write it for us. Otherwise, our apathy will ultimately become our undoing as it was for the Romans.

Canada, USA left Arar high and dry

ROB
FURSIEWICZ

I'm sure as Canadians we were all touched and deeply grateful when the US government promised to let our government know before sending our non-terrorist citizens off to be tortured in a nation known for inhumane treatment of prisoners. You can just imagine how incredibly important and successful an epiphany this agreement was to US-Canada relations, and fundamental human rights in general. Well, not quite. But somehow, this unbelievably weak agreement had been painted as one of the biggest achievements between President Bush and Prime Minister Martin at their first meeting.

The Canadian government, unsurprisingly, has chosen to take a rather soft stance on the issue. But fortunately, Maher Arar, the Canadian citizen sent off to Syria for no good reason and then tortured, is taking the matter into his own scarred hands.

Arar is suing US Attorney General John Ashcroft, the czar of the rights-assailing campaign to apprehend terrorists in the US. Ashcroft is loved by few and hated by many worried about infringements upon civil rights by Ashcroft's actions, especially the "Orwellian" Patriot Act.

The US State Department lists Syria as a nation that engages in systematic torture of prisoners. George W. Bush, in a recent speech, referred to Syria as having "a legacy of torture

and oppression." Yet, oddly enough, the US recently attempted to defend themselves against the deportation of Arar by claiming that Syria had told them that he'd be treated "humanely." Common sense would insist that it's not in America's best interests to trust the claims of a nation that they themselves denounce for a legacy of torture and oppression. But when did common sense ever play a part in the US government's spin on the facts?

According to the 21 January broadcast of *60 Minutes II*, torture in Syrian prisons is well-documented. The state department's own report cites an array of gruesome tortures routinely used in Syrian jails.

When Arar was told where he was being deported, he said, "the first thing I did was I started crying, because everyone knows that Syria practices torture." He continued, "When I arrived there, I saw the photos of the Syrian president, and that's why I realized I was indeed in Syria ... I wished I had a knife in my hand to kill myself."

The actions of Ashcroft and company, specifically the deportation of an individual with full knowledge of the torture awaiting him at his destination, is illegal according to the Torture Victim Protection Act of 1991, signed into law by none other than George W. Bush's father.

Of course, there is fault on the Canadian

side as well. The possibility that our own officials passively allowed a Canadian, with no proof of any wrongdoing, to be deported to Syria is an ugly one. The matter must be looked into, and as the facts unfold, it surely will be, but it is so far clear that Ashcroft's crime-busters have committed a crime of their own, with or without some Canadian assistance.

The actions of the US government in this affair, as well as the marginally weak Canadian response, are unacceptable. Arar's decision to sue John Ashcroft (and seventeen other American officials, including Tom Ridge and FBI Director Robert Mueller) is certainly an appropriate one. Ashcroft, who by many accounts is an extremist, is the main man responsible for apprehending terrorists. Is America's job in the "war on terror"—the task of finding and apprehending extremists—capable of being performed optimally by a man who himself is often considered an extremist?

Ashcroft and the Patriot Act are not staying true to American ideals in the fight against terrorists—American rights and liberties, and by association Canadian ones, are being diluted. Hopefully a dose of that other form of American justice, the lawsuit, will show the negligent American authorities that arrogance and negligence don't pay when dealing with Canadian citizens.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: JESSE WHITEHEAD

Billy Talent trades septic tanks for stardom

Billy Talent

with guests
Tuesday, 3 February
The Iron Horse

MICHAEL LAROQUE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

"I actually used to empty septic tanks on airplanes at Pearson Airport; it was one of the many glorious underpaying jobs I've done in my life. I know what it's like to be on the other side of the fence, that's for sure," laughs Billy Talent lead singer Ben Kowalewicz. While Kowalewicz is no longer in charge of pumping the raw sewage of first-class travelers, the hectic schedule of touring non-stop in the frigid temperatures of Canada is no piece of cake either. But he certainly isn't complaining about his band's newfound success.

"I went to bed after the show last night and I when I woke up this morning, we were in a mechanics shop in Winnipeg; the transmission had blown out on our tour bus and we had to book tickets to fly to Regina and we've been sitting in the airport all day waiting for our flight," explains Kowalewicz, sounding cheerful and upbeat despite their vehicular woes. "For the very first time in our life, we have a tour bus and we do two shows and the bus breaks down. It's the glamour of traveling across Canada in the winter!"

It may not be glamorous, but it wasn't long ago when Billy Talent weren't fortunate enough to have a tour bus or even a tour to worry about. Breaking out onto the international music scene last year after the release of their self-titled major-label debut, the quartet have toured across Canada with Sum 41 and headlined throughout the UK and Germany, where their debut single went to number one. And although VH1 once described

the band's vocals as "yelping," they've been gaining fans all over the world. "England and the UK are really picking up for us right now, and we are heading to places like Austria and Switzerland for the first time—for us it's a dream come true," Kowalewicz explains.

It seems like all sorts of dreams have been coming true for a band that has been paying their dues longer than many of today's breakout artists. After playing together for eleven years, Kowalewicz and his bandmates are finally starting to see the brighter side of the music industry: they're getting heavy rotation on music and TV, selling out shows, and even received an invitation from a rock legend to perform at Lollapalooza.

"I'm the biggest Jane's Addiction fan in the world, and Perry Farrell is my idol, so when he invited us to perform for two weeks it was pretty cool," gushes Kowalewicz. They even asked us to open a show for them in England. That was my own dream come true. We sucked that night, but it was still awesome."

Despite that fact that Billy Talent has been seemingly everywhere over the last six months, Kowalewicz maintains that they're the same working-class people they were before they made it big. "I'm still fucking broke, we're still struggling for rent, and I'm talking to you from an airport with a broken down vehicle," he laughs. Perhaps, but there is no denying that this hard working band has made good, even if they're not quite sure why.

"Music is one of those things where it's suddenly relevant in the time that it exists. Our music just suddenly became socially relevant and now it is what it is. I can't really explain it," Kowalewicz laments. "Fate, timing, or luck? Maybe it's all of them put together."



BEN KOWALEWICZ

BITS OF BILLY: Q&A WITH BEN KOWALEWICZ

Did you know David Hasselhoff was also number one in Germany?
It's funny because I actually run out on stage in a red Speedo and pontoon thing! It should be our encore!

What's the best part about being a musician?

I love having the opportunity to tell a story in a three or four minute format like we do in our songs. We have people come up to us and tell us that a song meant a lot to them and to me that's the best

compliment in the world, when you really connect with someone and they really understand what your trying to say.

What do you think of doing press?

I think bands who hate doing press need to get over themselves. If it wasn't for the press they wouldn't exist and they wouldn't be relevant. If someone wants to take time out of their day to learn more or expose us we have no problem doing it. We love it!



Big Bounce falls flat on cool value, plot

The Big Bounce

Starring Owen Wilson, Morgan Freeman
and Sara Foster
Directed by George Armitage
Warner Brothers
www.warnerbrothers.com/bigbounce

DAVE BERRY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The *Big Bounce* is a fairly typical adaptation of an Elmore Leonard novel: It features a roughish main character that gets by entirely on charm (both in the actual story and for the audience), eccentric supporting characters, surprising plot twists and, as usual, the main storyline centers on a crime, which in this case is the robbery of \$200,000 in mob payoff money from a rich businessman.

This robbery gets started when the millionaire's girlfriend (Sara Foster) runs into a petty criminal slacker (Owen Wilson), who—after losing his job at a construction site when he belted his foreman with a baseball bat—is currently working as a handyman at a local resort. They, after some sexual tension of course, come up with the plan. There are a few other minor subplots, involving the angry construction fore-

man and another petty criminal, but the movie is all about the caper.

With that in mind, this film isn't a particularly good adaptation of Leonard's work at all. To truly pull off a Leonard novel, a director needs a certain sense of panache; for lack of a better word, there needs to be a certain sense of "cool." This notion was best pulled off by—naturally—Quentin Tarantino in his version of Jackie Brown, and has been used with middling success in *Out of Sight* and *Get Shorty*. But sadly, this requisite amount of cool is almost entirely lacking in George Armitage's latest production.

The lack of style starts with the main character, a petty criminal named Jack played by Owen Wilson. Wilson is playing essentially the same character he always portrays in these Hollywood popcorn flicks—a semi-shrewd and affable guy that plays up stupidity to get what he wants from people. While his stock character works in supporting roles, it doesn't carry a movie very well, especially not one wherein the essential job of the main character is to charm the audience into slipping off their pants so the movie can have its way with them.

These flaws could be overlooked if Wilson had much in the way of support, but, unfor-



tunately, he does not. While there is a decently talented supporting cast, which includes Morgan Freeman as a district judge, Charlie Sheen as an adulterous stooge and Bebe Neuwirth as the millionaire's alcoholic wife, their characters—while slightly eccentric and interesting—are so flat and undeveloped it's hard to care about them at all. Ditto the female lead, the millionaire's girlfriend played by former model Sara Foster, whose only purpose is to introduce the plot to steal the cash and act as eye candy.

The fact that the characters are flat is another thing that could be overlooked if the story was sufficiently strong or told with flair, but again *The Big Bounce* comes up lacking. There are too many scenes that seem entirely superfluous, and the wild plot twists, a staple of Leonard-adapted films, feel as though they were slapped on to be

surprising and then shockingly justified afterwards. It's as if the screenwriter and director suddenly remembered afterwards that in movies, characters' actions need reason and motive, unless your last name is Godard.

This film tries to be a caper flick, but doesn't have the right pacing or a strong enough plot to pull it off. It also tries to be a character film, following around its eccentrics while they get into trouble, but the characters, again while sort of interesting, aren't developed enough to make us care about the escapades. All this is only magnified by the aforementioned lack of style, which is absent in everything from characters and plot to the little things like music and cinematography. It would probably be best to read the book it was based on, or better yet go rent Jackie Brown and see how Elmore Leonard should be done.

Local lunatics trade in their cartoons for canvas

Mixed Lunatics: The Life and Times of Billy Joel

with Fish Griwkowsky and Mike Winters
Friday, 6 February
Café Mosaics

HEATHER ADLER
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Have you ever noticed how rabbits are really bad at playing Tetris and, like most of their animal counterparts, are pretty stupid in general? Have you ever thought of Hunter S Thompson or Darth Vader as personal heroes, worthy of being immortalized like Russian orthodox saints in grand oil-painted statues?

If these are the sorts of ideas that keep you up tossing in your Mr T pajamas at night, then you're either clinically insane, or you're local artist/writer/oddly-named Billy Joel aficionado Fish Griwkowsky.

This week, Griwkowsky and his dubious little counterpart Mike Winters will be unveiling a new collection of original works—which the two have compiled in the theme of their personal icons and idols—in their first combined art show. “Mike Winters and I wallpapered the front of the Black Dog with a nature scene once and did a big chalk cartoon about police brutality a year or so later on the sidewalk,” Griwkowsky reveals of his previous work with U of A grad and cartoonist Winters. “When a cop finally walked into the bar, he got a standing ovation, which I thought was really interesting displacement.”

“I did a crappy mural in grade nine of heavy-metal penguins and demons at Rosslyn Junior High, I’ve had lots of photo shows and a show of paintings two years ago called *Animals are Idiots*, depicting animals being bad at things people find easy, like not falling off balconies.”

FISH GRIWKOSKY

Along with their mutual appreciation for irony, Griwkowsky and Winters also share a common history. Both Edmonton-bred artists



WORSHIP Fish Griwkowsky beats up a cowering Mike Winters.

ASHLEY RENSEN

got their first taste of public fandom in the comic pages of the Gateway, with Griwkowsky drawing the strip Space Cat and Winters penning the cherished Sex Boys, among countless other cartoons. Griwkowsky now writes for the *Edmonton Sun* and Winters continues to “draw various comics till he gets bored with them, censored or fired,” but both still share a common love for the quirkier side of graphic art.

“I started drawing as soon as I was given crayons, like most of us. I just never stopped, though I draw less than I’d like because my life is totally in the way,” explains Griwkowsky. “I did a crappy mural in grade nine of heavy-metal penguins and demons at Rosslyn Junior High, I’ve had lots of photo shows and a show of paintings two years ago called *Animals are Idiots*, depicting animals being bad at things people find easy, like not falling off balconies. Counting Space Cat, I’ve been drawing a fairly continuous comic story since 1979.”

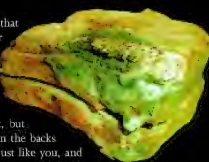
In his latest exhibition, Griwkowsky has traded in his cartooning pens for a series of brush and acrylic works inspired by Russian artist Miron Kosenko, whose prints will also be hanging at the opening. “He’s a dead

painter who did the interiors of the church I was dragged to as a child. But it was a place of serene, noble beauty, scented with decades of candle wax, and I always stared up at these unforgetting angels and prophets with excited terror while old widows sang warbly mantras around me,” explains Griwkowsky.

“This fear was the closest thing to Catholic guilt I was dipped in, except that because the sermons were completely in Russian, I understood the language as well as a house cat would in similar circumstances. Anyway, I have some discarded icons and am displaying them to the vegetarians. I think I’m doing a Darth Vader, too, before Lucas completely fucking ruins him.”

While the Mosaics show may be a far cry from your typical snooty art gala, Griwkowsky promises “fun, tunes, Billy Joel dance moves, drinking and gossip” will be had by all brave enough to browse the collection. “All the paintings and photos are for sale except the old Russian’s stuff; there’s no way I’d sell those. Mike Winters is painting some *Oilers*,” adds Griwkowsky, “which I’m sure he’ll sell for too cheap and make me look bad, the little troll.”

Like the nasty, moldy bread that your roommate left under your bed just to spite you for ruining her favourite sweater, the Gateway would turn all green and nasty without the help of our dedicated volunteers. You might not know it, but this fine newspaper is built on the backs of ambitious young scholars just like you, and you don’t need any experience to get published here. If you want to help the Gateway stay fresh and help yourself by learning what it takes to be a journalist, drop by an A&E meeting every Thursday at 5pm in at 3-04 SUB.



THE GATEWAY

STAYIN’ FRESH SINCE 1910

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print Centre

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CaPS

FILET O’ FISH: Q&A WITH FISH GRIWKOSKY



Q: Have you ever had a dream where you kissed your brother/dad?

No, but I used to have dreams as a kid where naked women would turn into cats, like in *Cat People*.

Q: Who do you think would win in a cage match: Mike Winters or Mike Comrie?

Winters, because he has more hate in him. Mike is looking for revenge, and should not be trusted with fragile things like Comrie’s skull.

Q: If you could have a superpower what would it be?

To be able to make the newspaper headlines read whatever I want. Like, I’d like to have the *Journal’s* headline today be PIZZA!!!!!! and every issue would magically transform. But also, the Hulk has a pretty good gig and nothing’s more fun than wrecking skyscrapers and fighting the army.

Q: What’s your favorite pastime?

Predicting.

Last Train looks at the women behind the art

The Last Train

Directed by John Hudson
Starring April Bonigan, Coralie Cairns,
Annette Loïselle, Marilyn Ryan
and Celina Stachow
Shadow Theatre
Now Showing
Varscona Theatre

CANDICE STEVENS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

A great artist has the ability to communicate emotions and sensations in his work, but can a portrait really capture its subject's soul and convey it to the beholder? *The Last Train*, now playing at the Varscona Theatre, explores this idea and some of the chaotic real-life stories of the art world's greatest muses while offering insight into the women that inspired and were featured in famous paintings by Picasso, Modigliani, Van Gogh, Degas, and Toulouse-Lautrec.

The play is set in 1944 Paris, just as the Second World War is coming to a close, and revolves around the story of a boxcar filled with precious artworks that have been looted by Nazi soldiers. The subjects of these paintings come to life as they travel across Europe, telling the stories of five very different women coming from an array of social backgrounds, ages and different periods in time (the paintings' age range from 1874 to 1936).

Dora Maar (Coralie Cairns) is strong, independent woman, fighting to conceal her torn heart as the lover and inspiration to famed womanizer Jeanne Hebuterne (April Bonigan) hides the troubled truth of her life with Modigliani as a fantasized fairy tale. Van Gogh-captured Adeline Ravoux



ART COMES TO LIFE These five women act out the lives of the muses to some of the world's most cherished artists.

(Celina Stachow) is an adolescent that feels the most innocent of the group. Middle-aged Marguerite Degas (Marilyn Ryan), spent her life looking down on her brother's artist aspirations, while carefully concealing her own lonely reality. And alcoholic prostitute of the Moulin Rouge Madame Poipoule (Annette Loïselle) glamorizes her fast lifestyle that motivated the artwork of Toulouse-Lautrec.

The claustrophobic confines of the train brings some comedic relief as the five women start to feel the effects of too much closeness, but soon the scenes start to drag on as the characters fight the same battles over and over again. Poipoule infuriates Marguerite with her unrefined behavior, Dora tries to kick Jeanne's head out of the clouds, and Adeline faces the frustration of not really having a life to

reflect on. The boxcar activity is often interrupted with loot inspections by a Nazi soldier (Paul Cowling), in scenes that are useful to fill in the blanks of the complex plot to the audience.

It's the back-stories of the characters that provides the real meat of the play, as the audience is drawn into sorting out the many women of Picasso's life and finding where exactly truth divides fiction in the life of Jeanne and Modigliani. The women's stories are told in turbulent, captivating flashback sequences, and the pieces of the puzzle are not always initially clear. The fast-paced collage of intermixed lives is further complicated as the five actresses also take on the additional roles of playing the artists and all the other characters from the past. This is seamlessly accomplished as each character has distinct mannerisms, stature

and accents to distinguish what role they have just stepped into.

The Last Train is a historical play that succeeds primarily because of the careful research playwrights Beth Graham and Daniela Vlskalic did to unearth the stories behind some of the world's most cherished artworks. Their depictions, for the most part, are based on the true stories of women throughout history who inspired the most creative minds of our time.

Wild passion for the complicated relationships these women had tells an unlikely and generally unheard angle behind the faces we've all seen immortalized in paint. This play is fast paced and at times not very cohesive, but by the end it will widen your perceptions, and you'll surely need at least a moment to fully absorb or ponder the story that was just told.

CULTURA OBSCURA



KabaKick

JAMES EILFORD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Finally! An answer to that dreaded, age-old question of parenthood: "How can I let my kids re-enact the Russian Roulette scene from *The Deer Hunter* without anyone getting shot?"

The Kaba Kick solves that and other "parenting problems" by offering children a chance to play the classic nihilistic game of taking needless suicidal risks in the safety of your home. No need for Mom to drive the kids to some dangerous and dilapidated back-room hellhole to play the game anymore! Just put the "gun" against your head, pull the trigger and... CLICK! What's that? It didn't go off? Oh, thank god—I get a point. If it does go off, however, you presumably lose and have a brain-spilling headache.

With a barrel that was intended to look like a kid-friendly pink hippo and armed with pink chunks of plastic that might or might not come flying out when the trigger is pulled, this game is great way to keep your kids occupied—or teach them how to give themselves permanent brain damage. Either way, it sure is fun.

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CRO

Squares are the new hipsters in collection of short stories

Geeks, Misfits and Outlaws celebrates culture's outsiders and the way they dare to be different even under the threat of ridicule

Geeks, Misfits and Outlaws

Edited by Zoe Whittall
McGilligan Books
pp 327

LEAH COLLINS
Features Editor

While reading *Geeks, Misfits and Outlaws*, a new collection of short fiction edited by Toronto-based poet Zoe Whittall, it becomes apparent that being a geek, misfit, and/or outlaw, ultimately, is all about being cooler than cool.

There may not be any real apparent glamour to be had from being a misfit. Old Huey Lewis can sing his brown eyes blue about how hip it is to be square, but somehow, everyone feels that being a geek is definitely not where it's proverbially at.

Outsiders are taunted, they're lonely, and they're the occasional victims of "swirlies" or other creatively named tortures. But Whittall and the book's collection of authors realize that outsiders are also (sometimes) the reluctant rebels and heroes of many of our best stories. As she says in the book's introduction, "I tend to feel passionately about characters, and people in real life, who cause a stit, illicit stares, awe, pity, and most definitely envy, while living on dividing lines."

Misfits, as such intensely singular characters, make for interesting art, but they would also seem to have a particular knack for creating it as well. The characters of *Geeks, Misfits and Outlaws* are, as the title suggests, a diverse lot of short story specimens. But whether they're awkward junior-high kids playing Dungeons and Dragons, pregnant heroin addicts, or gothly closet-jeshians, they all share a similar gift: they don't go unnoticed; outsiders watch.

"I tend to feel passionately about characters, and people in real life, who cause a stit, illicit stares, awe, pity, and most definitely envy, while living on dividing lines."

ZOE WHITTALL

Each misfit character has a keen sense of observation and perception, and the stories in this book reflect their sensitivity towards the

world they look in on from the sidelines with a flair for description and emotional imagery. The stories also explore the interiors of each character's isolated personal world, making each piece feel like an entry to a collective misfit diary.

For a 42-entry "diary," *Geeks, Misfits and Outlaws* reads with remarkable seamlessness. The stories flow strangely into one another, and it often feels like one author, one story, and one character are at the heart of the novel. In the most obvious sense, the stories come smoothly together through their shared themes of difference and alienation. The characters celebrate—sometimes timidly, sometimes boldly—their difference. Whether the speaker is a grade school outcast or a petty criminal, there's the sense that each character is coming from the same essential place; each is unafraid to be who he/she is.

There's also a remarkable sense of a shared voice running throughout, which is perhaps a result of the stream-of-consciousness style, somewhat poetic, imagery-laden prose that pervades most of the book.

This uncanny feeling of sameness among stories celebrating difference makes for an easy read, but it also creates a somewhat comforting effect, as it gives the outsiders a sense of inclusion.

With so many different kinds of geeks, misfits, and outlaws finding some kind of unity in the way their stories are told in this collection, there's the sense that the outside has its own little exclusive inner society which the reader gazes in at, feels passionately about, and desperately wishes to contribute to.



11

International Centre

1066

CaPS



The Offspring
Splinter
Columbia
www.offspring.com

HEATHER ADLER
Arts & Entertainment Writer

When I was in the ninth grade, The Offspring were the most badass group going; when I was pissed off at my parents for not letting me go clubbing at Chaos in West Edmonton Mall, I'd crank "Bad Habit" up on my ghetto box and make my teenage angst be known to the world. So imagine my dismay when all that power-chord pop-punk turned into vacant guitar noodling and songs about "being fly." On their latest release, *The Offspring* continue to crash down the spiral of suck and I just want to know, where did all the awesome go?



Ja Rule
Blood in My Eye
Murder Inc
www.jarule.net

ALEX MUIR
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The 'Rule is back kids, and he means business... business of the not-to-be-taken-very-seriously variety. From the opening of his fifth album, *Ja Rule* and his motley crew of collaborators exhibit the charm and sincerity of a used-car salesman, and it should really come as no surprise that *Blood in My Eye* is a genuine clunker unworthy of making it onto the streets.

Ja's "gangster" side is back on this album, but, unfortunately, he's completely out of practice, and all the trash-talking he does rings completely

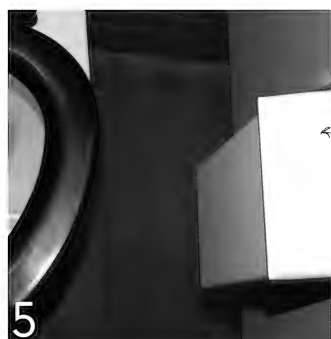
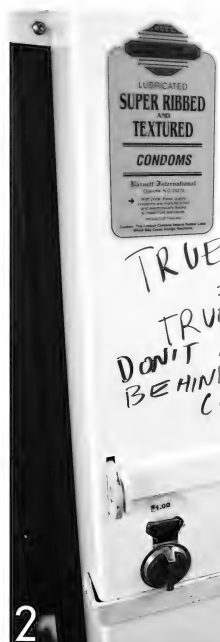
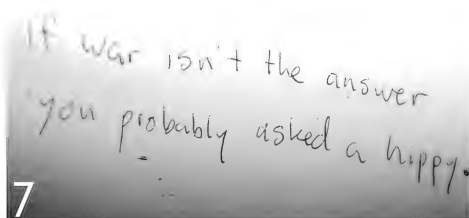
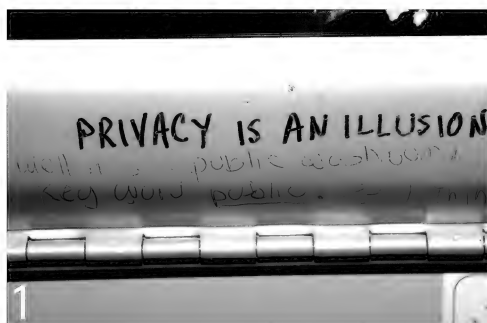
hollow. It probably doesn't help that the gunshot samples he raps over are clearly keyboard presets and any remotely intimidating threats come from his sidekick Hussein Fatal (who is, ironically, a former sidekick of Tupac Shakur).

It seems all that time Ja Rule has spent serenading various r&b divas has dulled his sense of what sounds badass and what doesn't (hint: lines like "no matter how you cut me, I'm always cheese," don't evoke a thug image, and talking about sexually harassing people is generally a faux pas).

Producer and Murder Inc. patriarch Irv Gotti's beats are canned and repetitive, leaving absolutely nothing to save this album from mediocrity.

Without his usual pop collaborations, this release will let down Ja's pop fans, and won't even come close to satisfying those looking for a tough guy to idolize. Ja should probably convince himself of his own toughness before he tries to sell himself to anyone else.

Maybe he should stop socializing, and flashing the bling bling and spend a little time back on the streets if he wants to continue passing himself off as a badass.



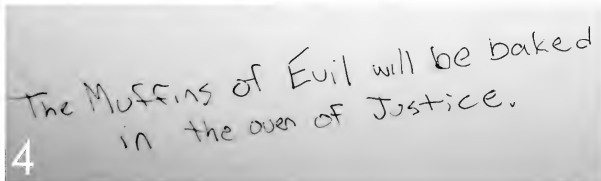
The writing's on the sta



Where it's at!

1. Tory Building, second floor, ladies' washroom
2. HUB, men's washroom
3. Tory Building, basement, ladies' washroom
4. V-Wing, basement, men's washroom
5. Business, main floor, ladies' washroom
6. SUB, basement, men's washroom
7. Tory Building, basement, men's washroom
8. SUB, basement, ladies' washroom

Compiled by Leah Collins
and Shawn Benbow



"I wouldn't even walk in there to wash my hands,"

blurts the photographer as he

hastily retreats from the stalls of a certain campus public washroom. "Except for some reason," he continues, exasperated, "I ended up spending three minutes in there. I tried really hard not to breathe. Really hard."



Stale, cloying odors, claustrophobic spaces, cloudy unidentifiable puddles that always manage to seep their way into carelessly dropped backpacks: public bathrooms are typically a place to be avoided. But in the short intervals we do spend in them, it's difficult to ignore the unique atmosphere of the places, most notably the particular brand of graffiti they tend to inspire.

Termed "latrinalia" by folklorist Alan Dundes in 1966, restroom graffiti is scattered all over the U of A campus in the form of anything from misspelled obscenity to anti-capitalist diatribe, to quotes by Robert Frost. Some people regard these stall-door scrawlings as the bastions of free expression, a place where the lines between reader and writer and the public and the private are questioned and blurred. One academic, Joanne Demers, in a study of the washroom graffiti at the Université de Montréal, notes that graffiti is "a scandalous gesture of self-affirmation." She suggests that washroom graffiti is revolutionary in that anyone, albeit anyone with a lack of

consideration for the poor folk who have to scour away these potty ponderings, has the ability to participate with what's been written on the walls as a reader and respondent without the constraints found in other media. The graffiti writer doesn't have to be compliant to the pressures of advertisers or other powers to be "published."

But ducking into the various facilities on campus, quickly eyeing the stall doors and walls for familiar markings of bic pen and sharpie, it would seem that such theories are a tad idealistic. Somehow, the profundities of statements such as "R heart T 4evr Infinity" and "You are a loser," most likely avoid the "revolutionary" cause Demers suggests, as do some of the marginally more literate samplings found around campus restrooms. The writing's quite literally on the wall: there's not necessarily anything particularly profound about washroom graffiti, but it darned sure makes for a bizarrely interesting two-minute read.

SPORTS

sports@gateway.alberta.ca • Tuesday, 3 February 2004

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Volleyball

The **Pandas** (14-2) took their show on the road to visit the Trinity Western Spartans (3-13) this weekend. Alberta was able to straight-set sweep the Spartans on Friday night 3-0. Pandas left side Tawana Wardlaw led the squad with ten kills in the win. The Spartans didn't fold after Friday night, forcing the Pandas to five sets as the Pandas won 3-2 on Saturday night. Wardlaw was the kills leader again with 14.

The **Golden Bears** (12-4) were also on the road this weekend as they took on the UBC Thunderbirds (6-10). Five sets were needed as UBC beat the Bears 3-2 on Friday night. Bears right side Jeremy King led the team with 18 kills despite the loss. Rebounding from the loss the Bears swept the T-Birds on Saturday night 3-0. Outside hitter Nicholas Cundy led the way with eleven kills in the win.



FILE PHOTO: JESSE WHITEHEAD

Hockey

Not only did the **Golden Bears** (21-0-1) keep their season-spanning undefeated streak alive, but they also clinched first place overall giving them home-ice advantage through the Canada West playoffs. This week's victims were the second-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies (13-7-4), who couldn't fend off the Bears attack, losing 4-2 on Friday and 6-1 on Saturday. Blueliner Chris Ovington and forward Jonathan Hobson scored in each game, with Hobson scoring a pair on Saturday night.

While the Bears were taking care of business at home, the **Pandas** (18-0) were trouncing the Saskatchewan Huskies (7-11) in Saskatoon. The series opened with a 7-0 Pandas blowout on Friday night, with forward Danielle Bourgeois scoring a hat trick. Saturday's game ended in a much less humiliating 3-0 Pandas victory.



FILE PHOTO: NICK WIEBE

Basketball

The **Golden Bears** (11-5) wrapped up their final regular season home games this weekend beginning with the Trinity Western Spartans (9-7) on Friday evening and the Simon Fraser Clan (0-0) on Sunday afternoon. Bears guard Mike Melnychuk led the team in scoring on Friday with 30 en route to a 96-78 Bears win. During the Sunday matinee it was post Phil Sudol leading the way as the Bears edged out the Clan 102-97 in overtime.

Two points was all that kept the **Pandas** (5-11) from a sweep of their own, as they lost to Simon Fraser (9-7) by a score of 68-66 on Sunday. The loss ended a three-game winning streak that was extended earlier in the weekend with a 68-58 win over Trinity Western (1-15). Pandas guard Diane Smith led the team in scoring on Friday with 18 points, while forward Stephanie Stok and guard Cristi Allan tied for the team lead with 16 points each on Sunday.



NO! NO! BAD! YOU DO THAT OUTSIDE! Bears forward Kevin Marsh rubs his Saskatchewan Husky's face into the ice.

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Hockey Bears sweep Huskies, clinch first

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Writer

The road to the Canada West hockey championship will once again go through Clare Drake Arena this spring.

The Golden Bears came from behind twice to down a tough Saskatchewan Huskies team 4-2 Friday night, clinching first place in the conference for the fourth consecutive season. The top-ranked Bears followed up the win with a 6-1 triumph on Saturday to remain unbeaten on the season with a 21-0-1 conference record.

"It's been our goal since the beginning of the year," said Bears head coach Rob Daum on securing home-ice advantage for the playoffs. With six games remaining in the regular season, Daum's squad will now try to focus on continuing to improve as the post-season approaches.

"We'll still keep building up," said Daum. "We can't have an emotional letdown, we have to have a physical letdown, we have to continue to do the things that we have to do so we're ready

come playoff time."

The Bears gave up Friday's first goal and were robbed by Huskies goalie Thomas Vicars on numerous scoring chances in the first period. But after falling behind 2-1 less than a minute into the second, the Bears scored three unanswered goals and turned away an intense Huskies attack to preserve the victory. The Bears were outshot 35-29 on the evening and 16-7 in the third period, but veteran Bears goaltender Clayton Pool shut the door on the attack, beginning with several key saves during a Saskatchewan flurry in the final minute of the second.

"It was a playoff type of game," said Daum. "Saskatchewan played an excellent game. They didn't give up a lot, and Vicars played well in goal and made some great saves at key times in the game."

Bears defenceman Perry Johnson, who scored the insurance marker and added two assists to lead Friday's scoring, knew going in that the third period would be a challenge.

"We didn't expect the Huskies to quit, just

like we didn't quit when we got down," said Johnson. "They've got guys that can find the open ice, and when you're playing a good team they're going to get chances. We were prepared for them to fight hard and we managed to come out ahead."

After falling behind 4-2, the Huskies produced a barrage of offensive chances. While they were unable to beat Pool, they dominated the final 25 minutes of the game as aggressive play from their defencemen kept the puck in the Bears zone the bulk of the time.

"When they fall behind they sell out a little more, and they generate more offence because of it," said Daum. "They have a tendency to leave their back end open a little bit, and we didn't capitalize on it tonight, but they just came at us hard in the third because they were behind."

The Bears travel to Vancouver next weekend to take on the UBC Thunderbirds, before returning to Clare Drake on Friday the 13th for the first half of a home-and-home series against the Calgary Dinos.

Hoops Pandas split final homestand, end win streak

ANDREW TOUGAS
Sports Writer

As the ball bounced off the rim and the buzzer sounded, the Pandas winning streak came to an end at three games. In her final home game for the University of Alberta, Pandas point guard Cristi Allan's last second three-point attempt came up short as the game against Simon Fraser ended in a 68-66 defeat.

The fifth-ranked Simon Fraser team used their size to their advantage, as Julia Wilson (6'4") and forward Lisa Sigurdson (6'1") combined for 29 points and 17 rebounds. The Pandas had to make adjustments on the floor to counteract the differential. "It was tough in the first half because we held off the post a little bit," said Allan. "In the second half we went to a zone defense and it worked a little bit more effectively because we could pack it in a little bit more. It's just tough because they have so much strength and while we played well, we couldn't stop them."

Switching to the zone proved costly for the Pandas. A late rally to end the first half gave the team an emotional boost and a 38-33 lead, but it was squandered early in the second half as Simon Fraser went on a 16-4 run.

The run made it nearly impossible for Pandas head coach Trix Baker to rest her starting five, who played an average of 32.2 minutes. Getting only two minutes rest during the game, Cristi

Allan nonetheless gave a good farewell performance to the Alberta fans, putting up 16 points and six assists.

Despite the slow start in the second half, the underdog Pandas recovered, finding themselves with a one-point lead with under six seconds left to play. But they proved unable to stop Simon Fraser's last scoring drive, and drew a foul, which SFU converted, leaving Baker's squad with a two-point deficit and one last play, Cristi Allan failed buzzer-beater attempt.

"I take some of the responsibility because I don't think I ran a great out-of-bounds play when we only had three seconds left," said Baker. "But Cristi has been shooting the ball well and I thought she could make it."

Next week's set in Saskatchewan against the Huskies will determine the playoff future for the Pandas, as Saskatchewan is tied for one of the two final playoff spots.

Though the shot didn't go in on Friday, Allan still has ample opportunity to lead her team into the playoffs, and that's all matters to her right now.

"I wasn't thinking about it being my last [home] game," said Allan. "I was really thinking this was a must-win and unfortunately we didn't. I'm going to miss this place and its atmosphere, which is awesome. It probably won't hit home for me until I want to come back and play, and can't."



SOARING Pandas guard Cristi Allan on Friday.

YAVON BIRN

Basketball Bears win weekend games

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Writer

For Golden Bear point guard Phil Scherer, this past weekend couldn't have gone any better.

In his last homestand as a Golden Bear, Scherer and fellow departing teammate Kevin Petterson were honoured for their contributions to Golden Bears basketball. Scherer then went on to repay the honours bestowed on him, dropping 24 points on Trinity Western University as part of a 96-78 Bears victory on Friday night and hitting a clutch go-ahead three-point shot that helped to seal the fate of the Simon Fraser University Clan on Sunday afternoon, in a 102-97 Bears overtime win.

The Bears and the Clan had identical records heading into Sunday afternoon's matchup, and as the OT-bound game played out, the Bears showed their depth, with four players scoring at least 19 points each, while Simon Fraser rode the individual skills of last week's CIS player of the week, guard Pasha Bains.

Not even the copiously exposed midrifts of the U of A cheerleaders could distract Bains as he connected on five three-point shots in the first half on his way to a game-high 38 points. But the Bears overcame Bains' heroics as guard Tyson Jones, along with some help from his teammates, clamped down on the Clan's leading scorer, forcing him to put up difficult shots in the second half. "He's one of the most offensively gifted players in the CIS," said Jones of Bains. "All you can do is contain him as much as possible and make sure they're other guys don't score, because if we let just him score, we'll win the game."



DIPSY-DOODLE Bears guard Mike Melnychuk goes around his defender.

Scherer was already familiar with Bains, as they played together on the national team. "He's offensively talented," said Scherer. "But if you get in his chops a little, he gets a little frustrated, and we made a good switch on him in the second half and that made the difference."

While Bains' pure skills are undoubtedly impressive, so too are Scherer's credentials. A member of a championship Bears team, a First Team All-Canadian selection, a division MVP, and a player on three Canadian National teams, Scherer is punting the wraps on a spectacular university career. "It's a great way [to finish at home]. They're the best team in our conference this year, and we hung in there and we played tough. We played hard, and it was a great

way to go out, for sure."

This weekend's victories were much needed after the Bears dropped both games against Calgary last week, as this weekend's pair of wins moves the Bears into a first-place tie with the Dinos in the Canada West Division. As a result of last weekend's losses, Calgary now holds the tie-breaker between the two teams. "Right now we're in a no-lose situation," explained Jones. "We're trying to position ourselves so if we don't win in the playoffs, we can get the wild card in the division, and hopefully get to nationals."

The Bears hit the road over the next two weekends to conclude the regular season. First they'll play in Saskatoon against the Huskies, and then travel to the University of Lethbridge the following weekend.

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Athletics



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Either that, or he's smelling himself. Grrr!

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Ollers

Forget football, bring on the nudity



JOEL
CHUKY

Sports
Editor

Between the hoopla and the commercials on Super Bowl Sunday, I couldn't help but wonder if it was really football I was supposed to be focused on. Despite its close 32-29 finish, this game may have been more memorable for the presentations off the field than the main event on it.

While some fans may wonder why Carolina kicker John Kasay kicked the ball out of bounds, giving the Patriots favourable field position for their last drive (which led to the game-winning field goal), others were still stunned after the halftime show, mumbling silently to themselves about whether they'd just seen Janet Jackson's breast.

Sadly enough, they did. As part of a scheduled publicity stunt by half-

time show producers MTV (the good people who brought us this summer's Madonna/Britney kiss), at the moment that Justin Timberlake sang the lyric "I'm gonna have you naked by the end of this song," he ripped open Janet's jacket to reveal a boob adorned with a metal sun nipple medallion. Somehow this shocked representatives from the NFL, but MTV seemed to be just going with the flow of the evening. After watching the whole game, one might've thought that nudity was not only an underlying theme, but a sponsor of the event.

Scantly clad cheerleaders on the sidelines, Jacko's sister's mammalian protuberances, a streaker in the second half with goldenpalace.com written on his naked back, and the countless reminders that the once proudly flabby Richard Hatch was going to be on *Survivor Allstars* immediately following the game was more than enough naked to fill an evening.

But it's important to remember that football isn't the main focus on Super Bowl Sunday; it never really is. If football was the focus, the game

would've been played last week. If football was the focus, the halftime show wouldn't have been so long, nor would it have contained P Diddy, Justin Timberlake, or Janet Jackson (all of which aren't exactly in the tape decks of Patriots superfans). If football was the focus, more than 1000 seats would've been open to fans to actually purchase rather than reserved for corporate sponsors.

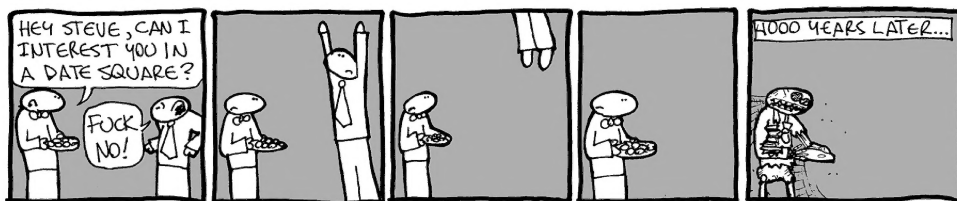
No, football was far from the focus—selling us stuff was. We drank the Budweiser we bought, voted for the game's MVP using our Verizon wireless text messaging option, and here in Canada we also quit drinking, smoking and doing drugs with help from our friends at AADAC all because the television told us to. Well, I'm sure some of you did, anyway.

What I'll remember most about this year's Super Bowl was standing outside slipping on a Bud, trying to text in my vote for Tom Brady, feeling guilty about the beer I was drinking, wondering where my clothes went, and doubting whether or not I'd just watched a football game.

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Lottery

FIVE-MINUTE FEELINGS by Chris Boutet



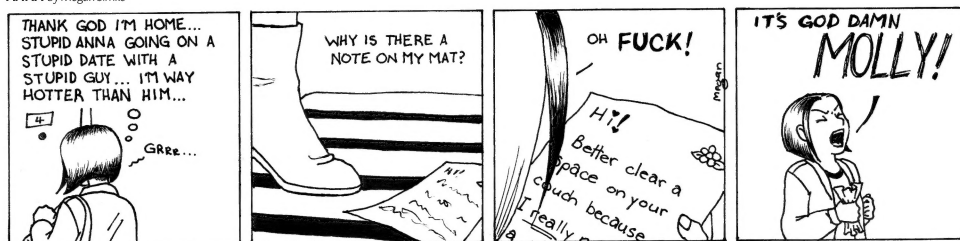
MORE RANCID A WIT THAN YOU COULD HAVE IMAGINED by Dave Leriger



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